GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4542
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2005
CULTIVABLE LAND
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large portions of cultivable land in several parts of the country have not been cultivated during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to cultivate on such lands and waste lands in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) The `net sown area,current fallows`and `fallow lands other than current follows are some of the main categories of land counted towards cultivable area. Thenet sown area represents the total area sown with crops and orchards and the area sown more than once in the same year is counted only once. The `current fallows` represents area which is kept fallow during the current year. The `fallow lands other than current fallows`includes all land which was taken up for cultivation but is temporarily out of cultivation for a period of not less than one year and not more than five years. The average annual figures for the last ten years upto 2001-02 of `net sown area`, `current fallows` and `fallow lands other than current fallows` are 142.10 million hectare, 14.16 million hectare and 9.95 million hectare respectively. Cropped area is kept fallow for various agro-climatic and socio-economic reasons.

(c) to (e) Government of India is implementing various programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR),(iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP) etc. to bring these lands to better agricultural uses.